CLAIM LISTING:

1. (Currently Amended) A push network comprising:

means for copying information held in a packet sent from an information providing terminal and for generating a plurality of packets with the same information, ~~and~~

means for distributing the packets thereby generated to a plurality of user terminals; wherein:

means within said information proving terminal for adding to a packet a content identifier or both the content identifier and a category identifier;

wherein the information provided by said information providing terminal is assigned a unique content identifier or both the content identifier and the category identifier for identifying the category to which the content of the packet belongs; ~~means is provided for adding to a packet a content identifier for identifying the content of the information held in that packet, or for adding to a packet one or both of this content identifier and a category identifier for identifying the category to which the content belongs~~; and

wherein the ~~aforementioned~~ distributing means comprises means for deciding, in accordance with the ~~aforementioned~~ content identifier, or in accordance with one or both of the ~~aforementioned~~ content identifier and category identifier, whether or not to distribute that packet to a given user terminal.

2. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein means is provided for adding a content identifier to a packet, and the distributing means comprises means for deciding, in accordance with the content identifier, whether or not to distribute that packet to a given user terminal.

3. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the decision means includes:

a table, provided in correspondence with a destination, in which content identifier related information has been registered; and

means for passing a packet if the content identifier added to that packet matches the content identifier related information registered in the table.

4. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 3, wherein means is provided for registering content identifier related information in the table in accordance with notification from a user.

5. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 3, wherein means is provided for deleting from the table content identifier related information that has been registered in the table, once a series of packets to which that content identifier has been added have passed.

6. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the deleting means comprises means for deleting content identifier related information from the table after a prescribed time interval has elapsed after the series of packets have passed.

7. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 3, wherein means is provided for deleting from the table, at a predetermined time, content identifier related information registered in the table.

8. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the decision means comprises means for receiving a packet requesting deletion of content identifier related information, and for deleting the corresponding content identifier related information from the table.

9. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the user terminal comprises means for transmitting a packet requesting deletion of content identifier related information.

10. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the information providing terminal comprises means for transmitting a packet requesting deletion of content identifier related information.

11. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the decision means comprises means which, if no packet having the same content identifier as that of passed packets arrives within a fixed time interval after the final packet has passed, deletes from the table the information relating to that content identifier.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the registering means comprises means for receiving a request packet in which has been written a content identifier relating to content desired by a user, and means for registering content identifier related information in the aforementioned table in accordance with the content identifier written in the request packet received by this receiving means.

15. (Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 4, wherein one registering means is provided for a plurality of decision means, and this registering means comprises: means for storing, in correspondence with content, information indicative of the information providing terminal constituting the source of packets with that content; means for searching for a route from that information providing terminal to a given user terminal in accordance with the stored contents of this storage means; and means which, in accordance with the result of the search conducted by this searching means, registers content identifier related information notified by a user, in the tables of the decision means along the route in question.

16-20. (Cancelled)

21. Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein means is provided for temporarily storing a packet which the decision means has decided to distribute.

22-24. (Cancelled)

25. Original) A push network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein means is provided for adding to a packet one or both of a content identifier and a category identifier; and the distributing means comprises means for deciding, in accordance with this content identifier and/or category identifier, whether or not to distribute that packet to a given user terminal.

26-44. (Cancelled)